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36
SEP
HUNT NICHOLS
GIVE THE GIFT
OF LITERACY.

THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN PASS THAT SEPARATES AQUILONIA FROM ITS ARCH ENEMY, NEMEDIA, PRINCE CONN SPEARHEADS THE INVASION OF THE ENEMY LAND.

FATHER, THE APPROACH TO THE ROAD OF KINGS IS SECURE AND WE AWAIT YOUR WILL.

WELL DONE, CONN. NOW WE'LL SET THE PACE FOR A FORCED MARCH TO BELVERUS.

CONAN THE KING™ Vol. 1, No. 36, September, 1986. (U.S.P.S. 589-610) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1986 by Conan Properties, Inc. CONAN THE KING (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Conan Properties, Inc. The advertising and editorial material appearing on pages 5, 7, 10, 12, 37, 39, 42, 44, covers 2, 3, and 4 only, copyright © 1986 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.50 in Canada. Subscription rate $12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO CONAN THE KING, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

THE ROAD TO EMPIRE
STORY DON MAAAR • PENCILS JUDITH HUNT & MIKE MANLEY • INKS ART NICHOLS
LETTERS JANICE CHIANG • COLORS GEORGE ROUSSOS • EDITOR LARRY HAMA
EDITOR IN CHIEF • JIM SHOOTER
MY KING, IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT EVEN A KING MUST BOW TO THE INEVITABLE.
I WANTED NO PART OF CONQUEST, RUFIO. BUT THE ENEMY FORCED MY HAND. I'VE TAKEN A BLOOD OATH TO MAKE THEM REGRET IT.
"HE WAS, I THINK, KING OF AQUILONIA FOR MANY YEARS, IN A TURBULENT AND UNIQUE REIGN, WHEN THE HYBORIAN CIVILIZATION HAD REACHED ITS MOST MAGNIFICENT HIGH-TIDE, AND EVERY KING HAD IMPERIAL AMBITIONS. AT FIRST HE FOUGHT ON THE DEFENSIVE, BUT I AM OF THE OPINION THAT AT LAST HE WAS FORCED INTO WARS OF AGGRESSION AS A MATTER OF SELF-PRESERVATION. WHETHER HE SUCCEEDED IN CONQUERING A WORLD-WIDE EMPIRE OR PERISHED IN THE ATTEMPT, I DO NOT KNOW."
ROBERT ERVIN HOWARD
FROM A LETTER TO P SCHUYLER MILLER
DATED MARCH 10, 1936

KING CONAN, THE NEMEDIANS ARE FALLING BACK TOWARD BELVERUS. BUT, THEY'VE LEFT A PROBLEM IN THEIR WAKE.

SPEAK PLAIN, PROSPERO.

KING TARASCUS CONFISCATED ALL THE SUPPLIES OF FOOD ALONG HIS LINE OF MARCH.

THEN HE LEFT HIS OWN PEOPLE TO STARVE.

AYE, MY KING, AND WE MUST DEAL WITH THEM.

OUR FATE IS IN YOUR HANDS, GREAT KING. SWIFT DEATH IS TO BE PREFERRED TO STARVATION.

BY THE GODS, I WON'T LEAVE THEM TO STARVE.

SHOW US MERCY, KING OF AQUILONIA.

WE'LL DO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH STARVING PEOPLE--*FEED THEM.*

BELVERUS -- CROWN CITY OF NEMEDIA, IMPREGNABLE TO INVADERS FOR CENTURIES.

CROM AND MITRA, WE SHALL SEE HOW LONG THE PROUD TOWERS OF THE NEMEDIANS WILL STAND NOW.

FATHER, IT'S ALMOST NIGHTFALL. YOU'LL NEED REST TO BEGIN TOMORROW'S WORK.

AYE, MY SON, LAYING SIEGE TO BELVERUS WILL BE NO EASY TASK.

AND IT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED SWIFTLY IF WE ARE TO DEAL WITH ARGOS AND OPHIR.

IN BEL VERUS, THE HALLS OF THE CITADEL OF THE RED DRAGON RING WITH THE RAVINGS OF NEMEDIA'S MAD RULER...

BUT, KING TARASCUS...

DON'T "BUT" ME, YOU FOOL. REMEMBER, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS, THAT MY WORD IS LAW.

I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO ORDERED OUR ARMY TO RETREAT.

MY LIEGE...

... THE ORDER CAME FROM YOU.

YOU JACKAL SPAWN, I'LL CRUCIFY YOU ON THE CITY WALL FOR YOUR IMPERTINENCE.

MY KING, I BEG YOU TO CONTROL YOURSELF.

MEMNOB, IT'S TIME I SILENCED YOUR WAGGING TONGUE AS WELL.

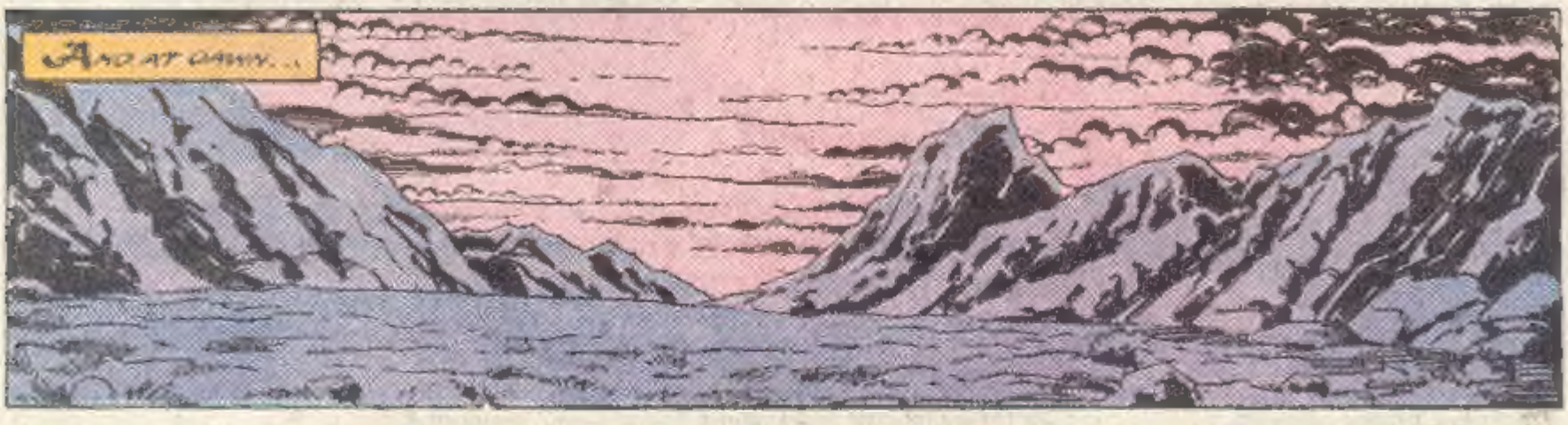
MY LIEGE, THE CAMPFIRES OF THE AQUILONIAN HOST ARE WITHIN SIGHT OF THE CITY WALLS.

YES... YES... THEY ARE, AREN'T THEY?

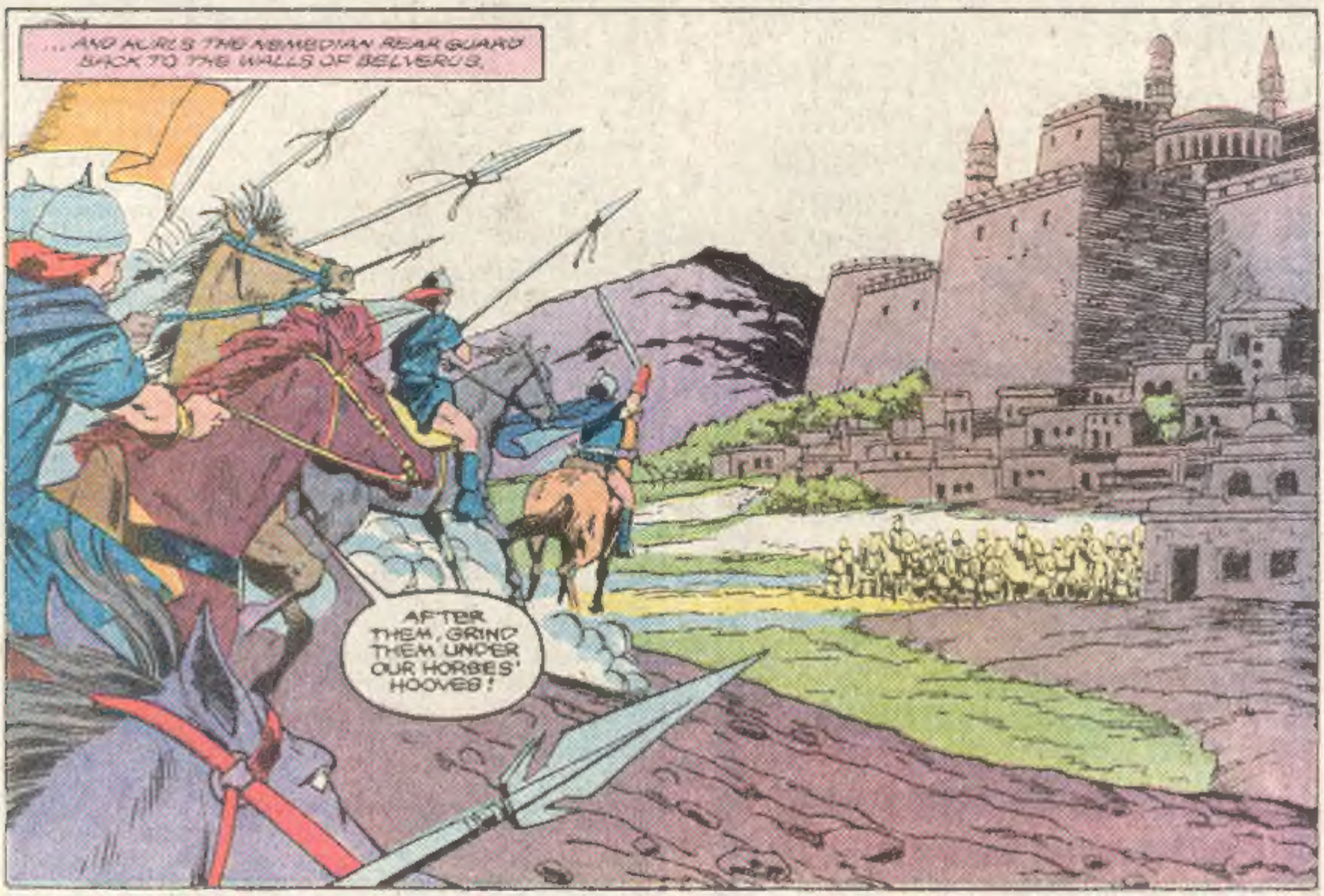
VERY WELL, I'LL HAVE YOU ALL PUT TO DEATH AFTER WE'VE REPULSED THE INVADERS.

BUT FIRST WE'LL DEAL WITH KING CONAN'S ARMY OF BARBARIANS, SAVAGES, AND AQUILONIAN SCUM!

THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, THE NEMEDIANS WATCH THE CAMPFIRES OF KING CONAN'S ARMY...


AND AT DAWN...

... THE AQUILONIAN HOST APPROACHES THE CITY LIKE A VENGEFUL JUGGERNAUT...


... AND ALRIC'S THE NEMEDIAN REAR GUARD BACK TO THE WALLS OF BELVERUS.
AFTER THEM, GRIND THEM UNDER OUR HORSES' HOOVES!

REMEMBER HOW THEY SHED THE BLOOD OF YOUR COMRADES AND COUNTRYMEN. SHOW THEM THE SAME MERCY.

CLOSE THE GATES!

OPEN THE GATES, IN THE NAME OF MITRA, BEFORE WE ARE SLAUGHTERED!

TELL ME, QUINTUS, HOW DO WE BRING DOWN THE WALLS OF BELVERUS.

WITH CAREFUL PLANNING, CONAN. NOT TO MENTION SWEAT AND BLOOD.

WE ASSAULT ON TWO ADJOINING FRONTS.

IN A FEW WEEKS TIME WE CAN BE READY...

...WITH SIEGE TOWERS AND A TRENCH FOR OUR CATAPULTS.

AYE, YOUR PLAN WILL NOT WASTE THE LIVES OF OUR MEN NEEDLESSLY.

A WEEK LATER...

HAVE ANOTHER CREW WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT, QUINTUS. WE MUST MAKE HASTE

AS YOU SAY, CONAN. WE'LL SEE THOSE WALLS TOPPLE BEFORE LONG.

KILLING ME WOULD BE DESTROYING YOUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET O QUEEN

LOOK INTO THE [illegible] EMERALD FLAMES YOU WILL KNOW THAT I HOLD THE SECRET TO [illegible] TRUE SECOND SON

XANTALIS THIS STY[illegible]AN [illegible] MAGIC IS STILL POTENT.

AYE LEOKA

"TEN YEARS AGO, I POSED AS A PRIEST OF MITRA IN TARANTIA, I SAW MY CHANCE..."

[illegible]

"I GAVE THE REAL TAURUS TO A STYGIAN CAPTAIN

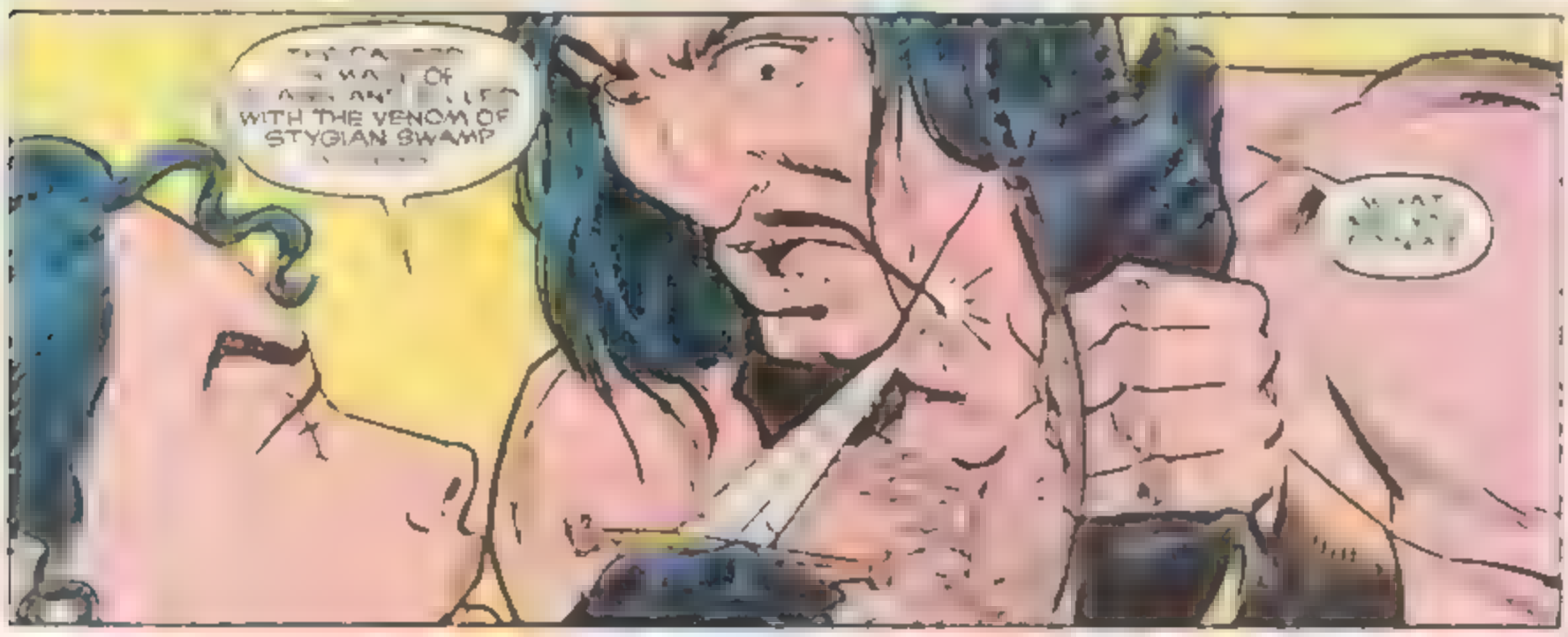
AND THE CHILD WAS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE [illegible]

BUT, TARASCUS WILL KILL ME IF I FAIL, O QUEEN

QUEEN LEORA, A COURIER FROM KING TARASCUS BEGS AN AUDIENCE.

YOU'LL
ME

FAMILY


WITH THE VENOM OF
STYGIAN SWAMP

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE OF ME?

AGREED?

AGREED!

TELL HIM, XANTALIA

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, CRASSUS.

I HEAR AND OBEY, GREAT MONARCHS

AN ARGOSSEAN MAN OF WAR PREPARES TO TAKE CRASSUS TO THE PORT OF KHEMI-NSTYRA

IF YOU FAIL, I WILL PERSONALLY OVERSEE YOUR TORTURE, STYGIAN

THEN I WILL SEE THAT SUCH EXTREME MEASURES ARE NOT NECESSARY.

I WILL RETURN AFTER THE NEXT NEW MOON

SEE THAT YOU DO

AND THEN I'LL DEAL WITH YOU BOTH IN GOOD TIME-- GREAT MONARCHS.

THE NEXT DAY.

WHILE I ATTEND TO THE DEFENSES OF THE NORTHERN BORDER OF MY KINGDOM, MAKE NO EFFORT TO ENGAGE THE AQUILONIANS

I'LL PREPARE OUR FORCES FOR ACTION, LEORA, WHILE THE AQUILONIANS AND NEMEDIANS BLEED EACH OTHER.

TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL I RETURN

IT SHALL BE AS WE AGREED.

I WILL RETURN AFTER THE NEW MOON

[illegible]

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SITTING UP YOU'LL OPEN YOUR WOUNDS AGAIN.

I HAVE A WOUND THAT MAY NEVER HEAL, UNLESS YOU [illegible] ME WHO YOU ARE

I FEAR YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR ONE OF LOW BIRTH

I WANT YOU TO TAKE SOME SOUP

NO.

[illegible]

[illegible] BEFORE YOU [illegible] YOUR NAME

I I AM .. MOIRA, HAN MAIDEN TO THE PRINCESS.

NO YOU MUSTN'T

I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW YOU

NO YOU COULD NEVER CARE FOR ME

BUT I DO...

AND I'D LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHO YOU WERE

MOIRA, COME BACK!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I ONCE TOLD YOU THERE WOULD BE OTHER LOVES IN YOUR LIFE. IS THAT WHY YOU WEEP NOW?

YES, YES, MOTHER

DOES HE LOVE YOU?

YES HE SAYS HE DOES, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO I REALLY AM

YOU CAN'T KEEP THE TRUTH FROM HIM FOR LONG.

I KNOW

WHEN HE LEARNS THAT YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN WHO SLEW HIS FATHER HE MAY HATE YOU *

I KNOW

* SEE ISSUE # 31

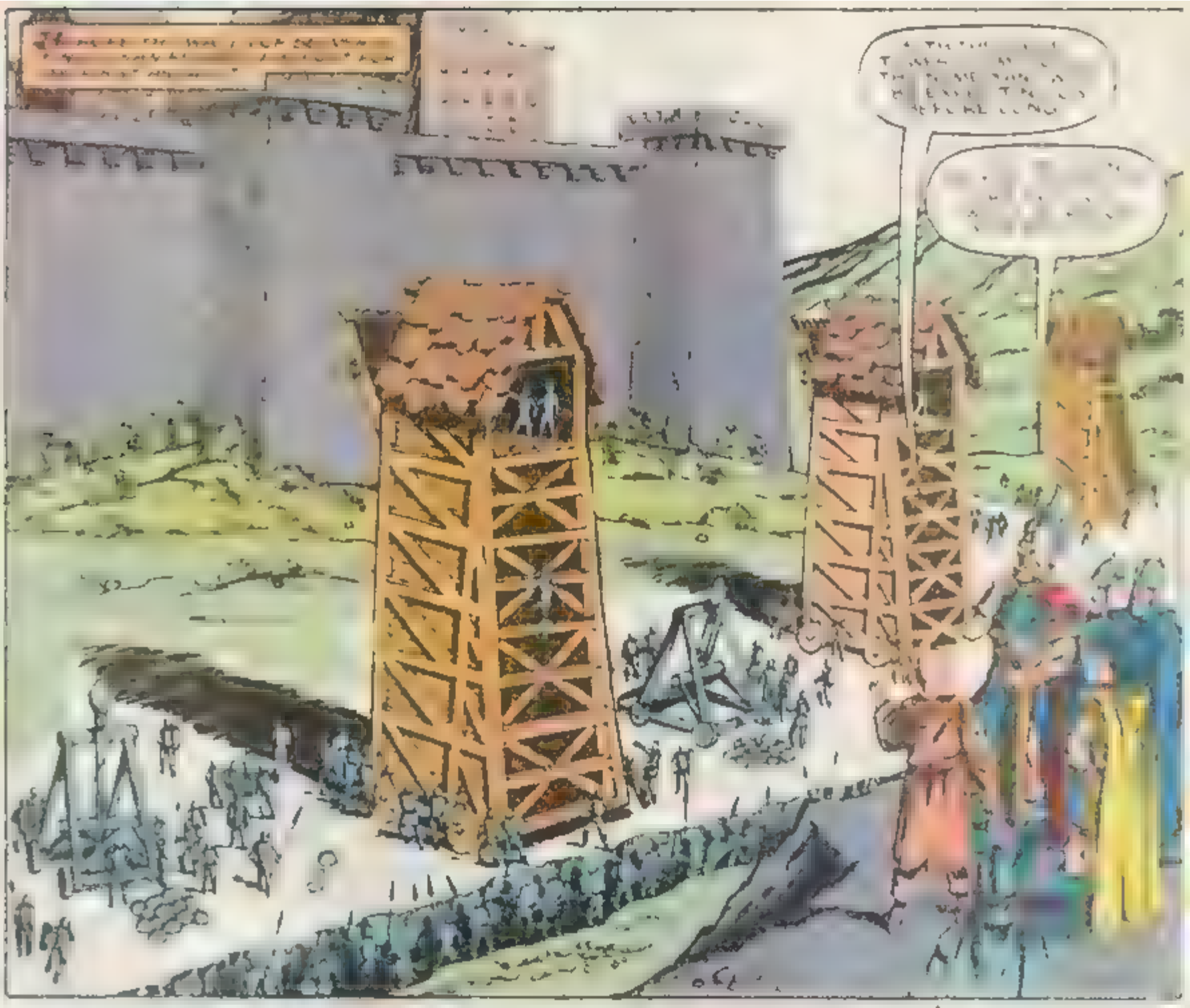
BUT I LOVE HIM AND I BELIEVE HE LOVES ME

I KNOW I SAW IT FROM THE BEGINNING

LATER

I AM GOING TO YOUR FATHER TRY TO REMEMBER YOU HAVE A BROTHER SOMEWHERE AND PRAY THAT WE FIND HIM

AYE



KING CONAN!

DRAW YOUR BLADE AND MAKE GOOD YOUR CLAIM TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD AKN

HASTING, DRYDUL HE MORE LIKELY TO DECORATE A TUNDRIL THAN A THRONE.

USE YOUR BLADE, YOUR WORDS CANNOT SLAY ME

WITH PLEASURE

YOU PLEDGED FEALTY TO ME IN YOUR WAR AGAINST COMMON FOE SETTLE YOUR DIFFERENCES IN YOUR OWN WAY AND IN YOUR OWN TIME

YOU MAY DEPEND ON US, O KING

HAIL, CONAN!

HAVE YOUR PEOPLE MOVE INTO THE TRENCHES BEFORE DAWN, HAGAN

WE WILL BE READY, CONAN

WHY HAVE THE AESIR TRIBES GROWN SO RESTLESS, HAGAN?

IT BEGAN WHEN DERYCK LEFT HIS FATHER HALF ALESTIMATE CLAIM TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD THAT CLAIM WAS DERYCK'S BIRTHRIGHT.

THE ENTIRE CAMP IS AS RESTLESS AS A BRIDE ON HER WEDDING NIGHT

THAT IS, FATHER, WHEN DO WE MAKE OUR FIRST ASSAULT?

TOMORROW AT DAWN

BEFORE DAWN KING CONAN'S ARMY MOVES INTO POSITION.

TODAY WE TEST THE ENEMY'S STRENGTH TAKE COURAGE AND FALL TO THE TASK AT HAND, DOG BROTHERS

MAKE YOUR ARROWS COUNT!

NOW, YOU SONS OF AESGAARD!

FORWARD, MEN OF KUSH!

GET YOUR MEN INTO POSITION BEHIND THE SIEGE TOWER, CAPTAIN

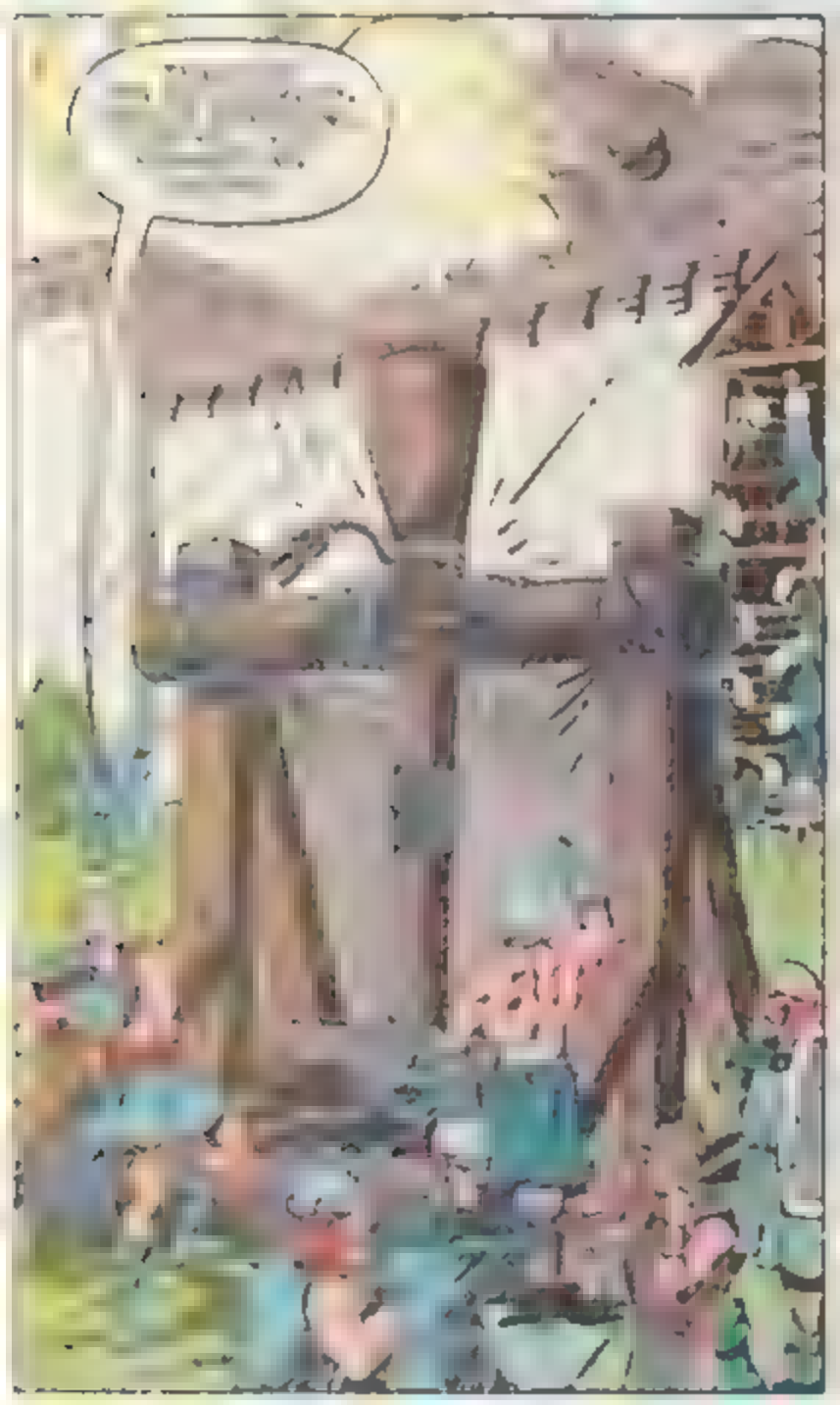
STAY DOWN MY PRINCE, BEFORE THE ENEMY ARCHERS FIND YOU!

WATCH OUT! IN THE ENEMY TOWN!

CONN

LET THEM WATCH FOR US

MAKE READY



AGREEE

THERE, NEMEDIAN THIEF'S PART OF YOUR DEBT TO YOU THEY SWORE TO CLEAR!

ARGGHH.

AGHEEE

AYE, AND WE ARE TOO FEW TO HOLD THE PARAPET!

THE NORMEDIANS ARE [illegible] ON MY KING!

FALL BACK! WE'LL COVER YOU!

HERE, KEEP THIS FOR NOW. WE'LL BE BACK TO GIVE YOU MORE

JUMP, MY PRINCE.

HOLD ON, LUNA!

OOOH JUMP!

RUFIO, WHAT

QUICKLY, RUFIO, WE MUST REPORT TO THE KING!
AYE

FATHER, THE NEWCOMERS MET [illegible] IN THEIR RESISTANCE

ARE THAT [illegible] BUT IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'VE ATTACKED YOUR OWN

THANKS TUKUPO

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MAY ANGER YOU

I CALLED THE RETREAT

GOOD YOU DID WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE HAD I BEEN THERE.

WE'VE LEARNED WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW - THAT WE CAN WIN

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH YOUR FLAG OF TRUCE, MEMEDIANS?

KING TARASCUS WISHES TO KNOW WHAT RANSOM YOU WILL ACCEPT TO QUIT YOUR SIEGE

THE KING IS WILLING TO MAKE GENEROUS TERMS.

THERE IS NO RANSOM FOR HELVETIUS OR YOURANS BUT YOU CAN RANSOM THE LIVES OF YOUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY DELIVERING THE HEAD OF TARASCUS TO ME

THAT WOULD BE A RANSOM, MY LEGE

ONE I HOPE THAT THEY ACCEPT OR I WILL BE FORCED TO PUT EVERY LIVING SOUL IN THE CITY TO THE SWORD

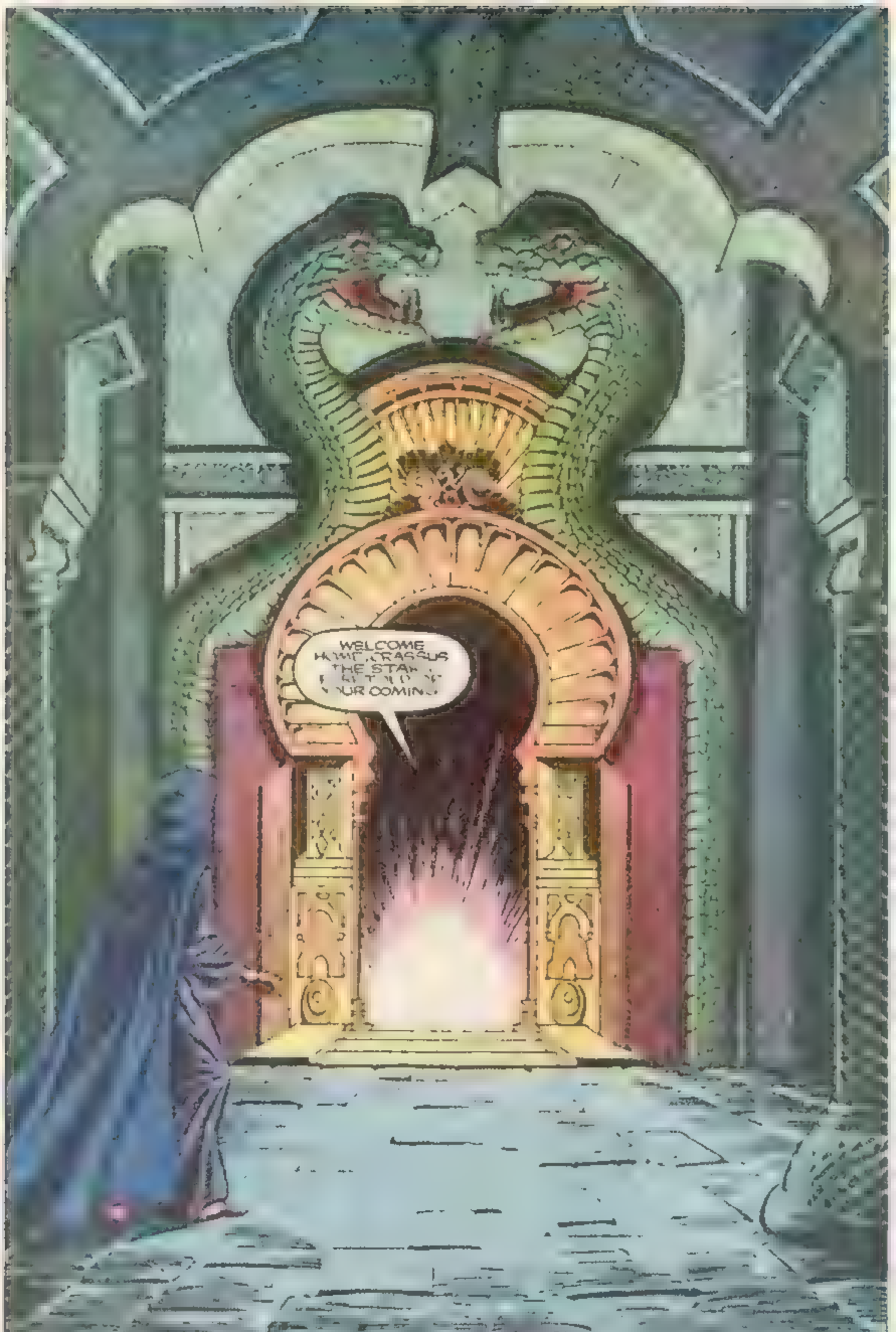
TO THE SOUTH THE ARGOSEAN MAN OF WAR BRINGS CRASSUS TO HEMINSTYGIA..

STYGIA--I HAVE BEEN A STRANGER FROM MY NATIVE LAND TOO LONG.

KEEP YOUR MEN OUT OF MY WAY, CAPTAIN

STRANGERS ARE NOT WELCOME IN KHEM! WHAT I MUST DO NOW, I MUST DO ALONE.

TELL THE MASTER THAT CRASSUS HAS RETURNED.


WELCOME
THE STAR

MASTER, I HAVE RETURNED FOR...

AH, YES... FOR THE BOY, OF COURSE.

THE TIME IS AT HAND TO STRIKE AT OUR OLD ENEMY, KING CONAN.

AND TOWARD THAT END THE BOY HAS BEEN REARED WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HIS REAL PARENTAGE.

COME HERE, MY BOY.

YES, MASTER.

TAURUS, I WANT YOU TO MEET CRASSUS. HE IS TO BE YOUR NEW TUTOR. -

TELL CRASSUS TO WHAT END YOU HAVE BEEN SCHOOLED IN THE BLACK ARTS.

TO DESTROY KING CONAN OF AQUILONIA.

CONTINUED NEXT TIME IN: SACK OF BELVERUS

KING CONAN

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

LARRY HAMA
EDITOR
PAT REDDING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Barbarians,

CONAN THE KING #33 was awesome! The cover was excellent, although Conan's wife doesn't usually walk around barefoot. The story, even the characters were great! I especially liked Prince Taurus, he was such a snob! Oh, I forgot to tell you how much I loved the way Rufio molded King Xantaus! And praise Crom for that wonderful pin-up in the back. Please continue these in CONAN THE KING. Till next time, Make Mine Marvel!

Neal Grant
1204 Oak St.
San Mateo, CA 94402

Most Royal Artists and Historians,

Mitra bless thy handiwork! Never before has the fierce countenance of our mighty monarch, King Conan, been more precisely depicted than on the cover of your latest accounting of his illustrious rule. The wrath visible in the blaze of our king's volcanic-blue eyes taught me the meaning of the words fear and reverence. Praised be Crom that I am but his humble subject. Furthermore, your chronicling of King Conan's majestic exploits is beyond my ability to extol. To cease recording his career would be to court the treasoner's death (and aye, Conan has many pikes for your heads to adorn on the castle walls in Tarantia). Hail to Conan, long may he reign. Farewell.

Richard B. Micklos
RD 1 Box 237
Mineral Point, PA 15942

Dear Barbarians,

The first of King Conan's adventures that I read was issue 28. The intricate artwork, the sword-swinging action and the enthralling plot were all A-Grade quality—good enough to hook me, anyway. As I am no comic book connoisseur my opinion may not be greatly valued, but I consider, out of all the different titles I have read, CONAN THE KING beats them all hands-down—especially with the new story of Queen Leora, King Xantaus and King Tarascus II combining to wipe out Aquilonia. Issues 29 and 30 were so good I have read them tens of times and still I keep reading them. In 30, it was great having Shooz Dinj beheaded—about time. Well done Conan. Will Conn get out of the city and carry the message safely to his father? I can't wait to find out in issue 31—"Force of Arms." Finally, I think you guys are doing a fantastic job and should consider going monthly. Keep it up!

Denson Obst
Nuriootpa-6 First St.
South Australia 5355

Dear Conan SLAVES,

I have been reading Conan stories for almost a year, and I have over 150 Conan issues (SSOC, CTK, CTB, and other special issues).

Of them all, I enjoy reading CONAN THE KING. The last CTK #'s (29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, which I just got yesterday) are the best. Also, I like Conan's long stories. I just finished reading CTK #33, and I can't stop thinking how Prince Taurus betrayed his own brother and helped Crassus in kidnaping his own sister. I can't wait to see the time when Prince Conn will be face-to-face with his brother, Prince Taurus. Will Conn forgive Prince Taurus for what he did in CTK #33?

Please could you answer my question? Can you reprint the full story "The Hour of The Dragon" from GIANT SIZE CONAN THE BARBARIAN (the 68 Big pages issue)? I heard it was about how Conan met Queen Zenobia. I would really like to read that story. I know the story was published in 1974–1975.

Sorin Herman
Queens, NY

We have no plans to reprint that particular story, Sorin. You may want to get in touch with a comic shop or one of the back-issue dealers that advertise in our comics so that you can get hold of a copy.

Dear CTK,

I have been enjoying your mag since issue #13. I finally got smart enough to subscribe. I am also subscribed to CONAN and SAVAGE SWORD. The first book I got from the subscription was #34. It was great. I was glad to see Conan's army finally defeat their enemies. I was also glad to find out that the Taurus we've been seeing is not Conan's true son. Oh, yeah, bring back King Kull, and put Solomon Kane in his own non-limited series.

Charles Couch
271 Babb Dr.
Lebanon, MO 65536

You want Kull? Get SAVAGE SWORD.

King Conan and friends,

I have been reading comics for as long as I can remember and I have a collection of well over 2000 of them but this is my first letter to any.

I wanted to say that I have greatly enjoyed KING CONAN and that the story and artwork have always been great. I always look forward to when I see the next issue at my local store. Also I want to find out what a No-Prize is. I'm hoping what I have found will entitle me to do just that!

In KING CONAN #34, page 1, panel 2 shows Conan center panel with the Aquilonian Lion on his chest riding a horse with a light greyish mane. Then on page 9, panel 4 shows King Conan on what appears to be the same horse, but the mane is a lot darker; also King Conan's chest is shown and the Lion is missing. Also on page 13, panel 1 and page 14, panel 1 show a clearer view of King Conan's chest and the Lion is definitely gone; also they show that his horse's mane has changed color.

Now, on page 3, panel 1 shows Prince Conn with a dark, wooly type shirt with a gold collar and on page 7, panels 1–4 show him in gold chain mail with skin tight blue sleeves and legs.

If I understand this right, in order to win a No-Prize I have to give an explanation for what might have happened, so here goes.

The Lion on King Conan's shirt was covered over by blood that splattered on his chest; his horse's mane didn't really change color while no one was watching, his horse got killed and he jumped on another horse that just happened to have the same type bridle. Prince Conn had on a dark sweater over his chain mail that got cut to ribbons in the opening of the battle.

I must apologize for picking at your work. In fact, it's some of the best I've ever seen and I really do enjoy KING CONAN; it's my favorite title. But after reading about all these No-Prizes, I just have to see what they are.

Sam Watson
625 Watson Ave.
New Bern, NC 28560

One No-Prize to go, coming up!

Larry,

Although I'm not a regular reader of CONAN THE KING, I had to break down and buy a copy of issue #34 because of newcomer Mike Docherty's beautifully captivating cover. Was this Mike's first work for Marvel or has he done something prior to this? I'd really appreciate an answer, 'cause I'd like to pick up anything else he has in print.

Elvis Orten
Route 4 Box 120
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Elvis, Mike D.'s work in CONAN THE KING was his first feature-length work. Previously he had drawn only a few short back-up stories in SAVAGE SWORD. Now, he has handed over his King Conan responsibilities to Judith Hunt and Mike Manley, and will be penciling about one-third of our SAVAGE SWORD fifty-pagers.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN LEE TO ATTEND SUMMER CONVENTIONS!

That's right! Stan Lee will be appearing at three major comics conventions this summer—one in **Chicago, July 4–6**, one in **Atlanta, July 25–27**, and one in **San Diego, July 31–August 3**.

Stan, of course, for those of you just back from thirty years in Antarctica, is the guy who started it all—the editor and writer of Marvel Comics back at the beginning and all through our formative years. Now he's the creative director of our West Coast animation studio, **Marvel Productions**—and I've got his old job as head creative person at Marvel Comics! And I won't give it back! Never! Never! Never!!!

Ahem. As Editor in Chief, I too will be attending the aforementioned conventions. So, too, will my right hand man, Executive Editor **Tom DeFalco** who oversees our **STAR Comics** line and **Archie Goodwin**, Editorial Director of the **EPIC Comics** department. (My left hand man?) You'll also see dozens of other Marvel artists, writers and editors at these cons—far too many to list here. So come out and see us! For more information on these conventions write to these addresses:

Chicago ComiCon
1219 W. Devon
Chicago, IL 60660

San Diego ComiCon
P.O. Box 17066
San Diego, CA 92117

Atlanta Fantasy Fair
P.O. Box 566
Marietta, GA 30061

Stan, as you might expect, will be reminiscing about the early years of Marvel and the birth of the Marvel Universe. Tom, Archie and I will be talking about our spectacular growth and success in recent years, and what's coming up in the future. Especially the most significant development in the comics medium since 1961—the *New Universe*!

THE NEW UNIVERSE!

The *New Universe* from Marvel Comics marks a revolution in comics equal to the birth of the Marvel Age.

During August, 1986, eight interrelated titles will be launched under the *New Universe* banner:

Star Brand	Justice
Psi-Force	Spitfire and the Troubleshooters
Merc	Kickers, Inc.
Nightmask	D.P. 7

These titles chronicle the lives and adventures of the most amazing, intriguing, powerful beings in the universe. Their world is the world outside your window. Their adventures are spectacular, startling, dramatic, and yet real and true to life.

The *New Universe* is like nothing else ever done or attempted. For two and a half decades Marvel Comics has brought the fantastic to life. Now we are bringing life to the fantastic.

New Universe.

NEXT MONTH . . .

a sneak preview of one of the first **New Universe** titles.

Excelsior!

Strive on!

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #8**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #234**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #43**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #18**—Where's Spidey? Find out this issue!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #12**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #36**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #38**—The birth of Snowbird's child!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #280**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #231**—Cap must take a life!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #10**—Thrill to the grandeur of issues #161–160!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #12**—The dramatic *double-sized* conclusion as Wanda gives birth!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #10**—Get the scoop on everyone from Phastos to Sabertooth!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #271**—With Paladin!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #188**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #51**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #323**—Guest starring the Vision!
- ☐ **X-MEN #209**—Look out, it's a major battle issue!
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #10**—Featuring the origins of the Beast and Marvel Girl, Dr. Strange and the Ancient One, and the Sandman!
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #12**—It's the unbelievable *double-sized* conclusion!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL #8**—The Wolverine guest stars in this milestone issue by MARK GRUENWALD, MIKE ZECK and JOHN BEATTY!
- ☐ **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #125**—Don't miss this *double-sized* final issue!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2**—Featuring Warlock and the New Mutants, by ANN NOCENTI and ART ADAMS!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #191**—A *triple-size* special, featuring the controversial 3-part drug abuse story from *Amazing Spider-Man* #96–98!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #294**—To rescue the She-Hulk!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #210**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #118**
- ☐ **SECTAURS #8**
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